GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1481
ANSWERED ON:03.08.2005
ACADEMIC EXCHANGES BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN
Reddy Shri Mekapati Rajamohan

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to consider allowing academic exchanges between India and Pakistan to fulfil a long standing demand of intellectuals on both sides of the border ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED)

(a) It is policy of the Government to promote exchange of visits in the fields of academic, culture, sports etc. to increase people to people contact between India and Pakistan. This has been reflected in the Secretary (Culture) level talks held in New Delhi on August 3-4, 2004 and again on July 26-27, 2005 at Islamabad. Government has also announced a liberalized visa regime in September 2004, for academicians, Professors and Vice Chancellors from Pakistan coming to attend seminars, conferences etc. at the invitation of reputed/eminent universities and institutions in India.

(b) In the context of improved relations, academic exchanges are already taking place at the initiative of the individual universities, colleges and educational institutions of both India and Pakistan which are facilitated by the Government. A delegation from Higher Education Commission of Pakistan is expected to visit India shortly which will interact with University Grants Commission and other Universities in India.